

California Department of Veterans Affairs



ADVISORY

Contact: Robert Glazier
Jerry R. Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislative and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
916-653-2611 Fax
June 22, 2004

WORLD WAR II POW TO RECEIVE LONG OVERDUE MEDAL

EVENT: LT. Norman Williams Jr., a Prisoner of War (POW) in Europe during World War II, and, currently a resident at the Yountville Veterans Home, will be presented with a long overdue POW Medal for Europe for his service during the war.

DATE: Thursday, June 24, 2004

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: ANNEX II PATIO
Veterans Home of California, Yountville
100 California Drive
Yountville, CA 94599

WHO: LT. Norman Williams Jr.
CDR, Marcella McCormack, USN, Ret., Administrator

CONTACT: Jody Price at 707-944-4539

BACKGROUND: LT. Norman Williams Jr. flew 10 missions as a bombardier with the United States Air Force's 401st Bomb Squadron, 91st Bomb Group. LT. Williams located, identified, and accurately bombed assigned targets over Germany and France. He also inspected and checked the bombsight prior to each mission. At the time he was shot down over Germany, LT. Williams had already logged about 500 hours flying time as a bombardier. Approximately in August 1943, LT. Williams' plane was shot down, causing him to bail out of the disabled plane, spraining his right knee upon landing on solid ground. He was promptly captured and spent the next 22 months as a POW at Stalag Luft 3 in southern Poland. At the POW camps, often a single loaf of black bread would be given to a group of five aviators as their meal ration for the entire day. Forced to march through freezing weather, LT. Williams and the other prisoners often suffered frostbite in their extremities. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, LT. Williams and other prisoners escaped and made their way to Frankfurt Germany where the Allied control nourished them back to health, put them aboard a ship, and returned them to the United States. He was discharged from active duty on December 18, 1945. A bit later, LT. Williams entered the Reserves and was officially discharged as a Reservist on September 28, 1957.

####